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PRAYERS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.

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PRAYERS

FOR

PUBLIC WORSHIP.

BY THE LATE

JOHN SERVICE, D.D.,
MINISTER OF HYNDLAND ESTABLISHED CHURCH, GLASGOW.

LONDON:
MACMILLAN AND CO.
1885.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE singular influence acquired by the late Dr. Service as a religious teacher was thought by many members of his congregation to be due to some extent to an unusual combination of qualities in his sermons and in the prayers which he composed for public worship. The fearless frankness with which he gave expression to unpopular views, and opposed beliefs widely entertained in the Churches, when he held them to be dangerous, was in distinct, though perhaps only in apparent contrast to the deep reverence and all-

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embracing charity which characterized his prayers.

It has been thought, therefore, that to present these prayers in a collected form may gratify many of his friends, and may show more clearly the range and character of his teaching. He wrote them out with extreme care, and it is plain that he attached great importance to the adequate expression of the feelings by which he thought a Christian congregation should be animated. It is, however, difficult to present these prayers in such a form as he himself might have chosen. They are nowhere arranged for particular days of the month, for morning or evening service, or for special Church occasions. As he thought them suitable he was accustomed

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to select portions of one prayer, and combine them with parts of others.

The two friends to whom the arrangement and selection of the contents of this volume is due—the Rev. William Muirhead and the Very Rev. Principal Caird—have not felt themselves at liberty to make modifications in the manuscripts further than by the omission of a few passages repeated in different prayers.

No other form of religious composition can be made so conventional as this, but there is, perhaps, none in which a religious teacher can give truer expression to his deepest thoughts about man and God, and to his best hopes and aspirations. It is hoped that in the perusal of this little volume many readers may feel their own

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spirits drawn into more intimate fellowship with Him whom its writer served. By personal friends and by the members of his congregation it will be welcomed as the heartfelt and solemn expression of those central truths of the Christian Religion in which Dr. Service most surely believed.

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PRAYERS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.

I.

BLESSED and Eternal Lord, whom no man hath seen or can see, but who art nigh unto all that call upon Thee, grant us Thy grace that withdrawing our thoughts from that which is seen and temporal we may enter into fellowship with Thee through Jesus Christ. We bless Thee and praise Thee, Lord and King of all, for the sphere of work and duty in which our common life is passed, for the toil which throughout the week makes rest sweet, and the rest which renews our strength for toil. We bless Thee and praise Thee for the

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rest and quiet of this day, and for the blessings and opportunities which it brings to us as spiritual beings. We thank Thee that Thou openest Thine hand and satisfieth the desire of everything that liveth. We bless Thee that Thou who hast given us life without end dost give us the means of grace to strengthen and purify it.

Lord God, holy and just and good, be merciful to us and pardon us who have sinned against Thy holiness and justice and goodness. Against Thee, Thee only have we sinned. Light hath come into the world; we being evil have loved the darkness rather than the light. We have known what is good, and what the Lord doth require of us, and in regard to our sin both of neglecting to do Thy will and of transgressing Thy holy commandment,

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we are without excuse. Thou hast given us faculties to be used and time to be spent for Thy glory and the good of our fellow-men. Thou hast thus purposed to make us heirs of eternal life, but we have used Thy gifts vainly and misused them sinfully, and have brought ourselves near to the gates of death. Thy glory, King Eternal, and Thy blessedness is to do good, to bless and save. In all the darkness and misery of the world, in the sorrows of the poor and needy, in the desolation and distress of the friendless and forsaken and outcast, Thou givest us from day to day the opportunity to share Thy blessedness and Thy glory. But in our blindness we have preferred the vain and fleeting pleasures of sense and selfishness, saying to ourselves, What shall we eat and what shall we drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed? Our knowledge is

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ignorance, for it has served to hide Thee from our view. Our religion is selfishness, for we have sought in it chiefly our own well-being here and hereafter. Our life is vanity and our work folly, for we have not lived for Thee nor wrought our work in Thee. Forgive us, O Lord, all this our sin and blindness. Forgive us, that Thy works declare Thy glory, and we have not rejoiced in beholding it. Forgive us, that in Jesus Christ Thy grace has been revealed to us and we have not welcomed it nor desired it.

God of all grace, who didst in the fulness of time send forth Jesus Christ, born of a woman, made under the law, that He might fulfil all righteousness in a life of poverty, humiliation, and suffering, inspire us by Thy grace, quicken us by Thy spirit to love righteousness as our only life, so that He

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may not have lived in vain nor died in vain for us, but that He may live in us and we in Him to the glory of Thy holy name.

Blessed God, who didst cause the light to shine out of darkness at the first, and hast turned again the shadow of death into the morning, we praise and bless Thee for all that the light reveals to us, for the beauty and glory of Thy works in the heavens above and the earth beneath, for the works which thou hast given to man strength and skill to plan and to perform, for the place which is endeared to us as the place of our birth, and for the place in which we enjoy the comforts and pleasures of home and friendship. We bless Thee that day by day Thy goodness is manifested to us in all the arrangements of Nature and all the events of Providence, and that, as for the good most truly and perfectly, so for all Thy

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creatures assuredly and at last, all things work together for good and all things are ordered to bless. We bless Thee for the innumerable precious gifts with which Thou hast enriched our lot in this our native land, for the memories with which it is stored of the great and good who have lived in it and toiled for it and died for it, for the liberty which is its boast, and the peace and prosperity which are its ancient heritage. The Lord hath been mindful of us and He will bless us. Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. O Thou who art the soul of our souls, and the life of our lives, in whom we live and move and have our being, we bless Thee for Thy goodness and patience in prolonging our life and giving us food and raiment; and we thank Thee that along with those things

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which are required for the sustenance of our life, Thine hand is opened to bestow so many that contribute to our happiness. We thank Thee for our friends and old acquaintances, for all who rejoice in our joy and grieve in our grief; and as for these, so also we thank Thee for all whom we love and for all who commend themselves to our hearts as objects of regard or pity.

We bless Thee, O Lord, for Jesus Christ; we thank Thee for His life and death, for His work and sacrifice, for the contradiction of sinners which He endured to establish Thy kingdom upon earth, for the blessings which are heaped upon His name through all generations. May we who know His name and call Him Lord, obey His voice and follow His example; may we be ready to forgive, to pity, to bless those that curse us and to return good for evil.

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Almighty God, whose days are without end, whose mercies cannot be numbered, grant that our few days upon the earth may not be also evil, but that they may be spent in praising Thee and glorifying Thy name. Let the people praise Thee, Lord, let all the people praise Thee. Known unto Thee are our temptations, our infirmities, and besetting sins. Help us to overcome them in Thy strength by a patient continuance in well-doing. What feeble desires we have after the life divine of truth and goodness, Thy mercy has bestowed! Be pleased to strengthen and quicken them by Thy grace that we may run and not be weary in the way of righteousness and peace. May it please Thee, Eternal King and Lord, to accept our worship and to pardon our unworthiness. Not as we ought but as we are able, we bless Thee, we adore Thy majesty. As

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those that wait for the morning, we wait for Thee and Thy salvation. Deny us not Thy grace, but when we seek to draw near to Thee, draw near to us, and cleanse us by Thy purity, and enlighten us with Thy light, and save us with Thy salvation.

O Thou who graciously acceptest the intercessions of Thy children on earth, inspire the ministers of Thy gospel with love of the truth as the power of God unto salvation, and grant that all the members of the Church universal may be joined together in the bond of a living faith. May we know the blessedness of communion with each other in the rites of a reasonable and sincere worship, and in mutual acts of charity and sympathy and kindness. O Thou who orderest our steps, yet not so that we are never in difficulty or in danger,

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grant us that light of Thy Spirit which is a light unto our feet and a lamp unto our path, that we may persevere in the ways of godliness, and that henceforth and at length we may enjoy a fuller communion than we have yet enjoyed with Thee and with Thy Son Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, who rulest among all nations, and governest by princes as Thy servants, we pray for Thy blessing on our beloved Queen. Let Thy wisdom be her guide, Thine arm her strength; let justice, truth, holiness; let peace, love, and light flourish in her day; direct all her counsels and endeavours to Thy glory and the welfare of her people. And together with her, bless, we beseech Thee, the Royal Family, that they all, ever trusting in Thy goodness, protected by Thy power, and crowned with Thy mercy, may live in peace, gladness,

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and honour, and after long and happy lives upon earth, may enter into life everlasting, revealed by Jesus Christ our Lord.

We give Thee thanks, Lord God most holy, and praise Thy glorious Majesty for all the graces and virtues Thou has wrought in Thy servants who have departed this life in Thy faith and fear, and have entered into their rest. We thankfully remember in Thy presence, who art the beginning and the end of all lives, their worth and good example, and we rejoice in the thought that they have not ceased to be, but have yet experience of Thy mercy and grace, where Thou art more clearly revealed than here to souls that love Thee and long for Thy salvation. May we so remember them that we may emulate their goodness, and finally have fellowship with them and with Thee in the kingdom that cannot be moved.

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Father of mercies, hope and desire of all whom Thou hast made, even of those that know not Thy name, we remember before Thee the helpless and outcast, the sick and the sorrowful, the tempted and the dying, beseeching Thee to hear us when we make mention of Thy loving-kindness and hope for it for them all.

Almighty God, our portion and our hope, who turnest not away the soul that seeks Thee, we beseech Thee to incline Thine ear unto us, who now make our prayers and supplications unto Thee, and grant that those things which we have asked faithfully, according to Thy will, we may obtain effectually, to the relief of our necessities, the setting forth of Thy glory and the advancement of Thy kingdom in our hearts and in all the world.

Our Father, &c.

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II.

THE Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid? One thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek, after that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple; for in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion, in the secret of His tabernacle He shall hide me, He shall set me upon a rock. When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face, my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

O Thou who art everywhere present in heaven and earth, and art the life of all that live, we beseech Thee who art

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near to us to enable us to draw near to Thee and to feel that Thou art near. Though we cannot flee from Thy Spirit or go from Thy presence, and cannot be where Thou art not, yet in our pursuit of vanity and love of evil we have erred and strayed from the blessedness of feeling Thy presence and grace, and we beseech Thee to grant that however we may have departed from Thee we may now seek Thy face, and seeking may find Thee. It is Thy presence in them which makes the beauty and glory of the heavens above us and the earth beneath us; it is Thy presence in us which makes us conscious of ourselves and of Thy works. May Thy presence in us this day and all our days inspire us with the life divine of righteousness and goodness.

We bless Thee for the Church of Christ

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and all the means of grace which it yields us, and for this day of rest and quiet on which we, with so many who love the Lord Jesus Christ, offer our prayers to Thee. We thank Thee that on this day dedicated to Thy worship, we are reminded of our fellowship with all men in the Gospel of Thy grace, and of Thy goodness to us and to them in making us heirs with them of Thy boundless pity. We bless Thee that as we lift up our voices to Thee this day to thank Thee for Thy goodness to us, we can feel that over half the world there are multitudes who, along with us, have entered into Thy courts, and gathered themselves together to laud and bless Thy name, that their faith is our faith, their hopes are the hopes which cheer and comfort us, their prayers for the coming of Thy kingdom the prayers which we desire to offer.

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Blessed and eternal Lord, whose glory it is to exalt the humble and to pardon the contrite, be gracious and merciful to us, and by Thy grace enable us to feel how much reason we have in Thy presence to be humble and to be contrite. We are glad that Thou who knowest all things knowest all our sins, for we know that Thou art good beyond our hope, and we can joyfully trust ourselves to Thy compassion. But while we rejoice that Thou knowest us altogether, and that our sins and iniquities are not hidden from Thee, we stand in awe and fear in Thy presence when we recall to mind how many and grievous they are. We bless Thee for any faithful and honest and useful work which we have been enabled to do, whether for wages or goodwill. We confess that most of our lives has been spent in idleness, or

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in doing nothing that was good or useful. We thank Thee for any desire we have felt and any effort we have made to befriend and help any of our fellow-men, for any feelings of friendship and love that we have had towards them. We acknowledge the sin of our hardness of heart, in that we have been so often and so much indifferent to the good of our brethren. We bless Thee for any wise use we have made of any of Thy gifts. We confess that we have used none of them as we ought. We thank Thee for any feelings of hope and thankfulness towards Thee we have experienced, for any gratitude towards Thee for giving us prosperity or succouring us in sickness or redeeming us from the death of vanity and sin. But we confess that these feelings have been but momentary and transient, and that Thou who art present with

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us in mercies and benefits innumerable hast been to us as one absent or unkind. The good that we would that we do not, and the evil that we would not that we do. Forgive us this our folly and vanity and sin, and in Thy mercy incline our hearts to the love of that which is good.

O Thou whose glory filleth heaven and earth, yet is above all revealed to us Thy creatures, in Thy kindness to the evil and unthankful of our race, we desire to join with this confession of our evil, thanksgiving for Thy goodness. Because we are evil, and because to us even Thy severity is kindness and Thy judgments are mercies, we in our lives, above all Thy creatures and all Thy works, declare Thy glory. Whether we give or withhold our worship, Thou art glorified in that we live. But we desire as Thy children to worship thee. We bless

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Thee for the varied experience Thou hast given us in uniting in us body and soul. We bless Thee for the experience which we thus have of bodily and mental enjoyments, of mingled good and evil, of passions which enrich, and reason which guides our lives, of change without us and within us of which there is no end. We thank Thee for the experience with which we are thus gifted of a progress from youth to age, for life which is thus enriched with various good, for blessings and enjoyments which are thus enlarged by recollection of the past and by hope of the future.

We bless Thee for the good which is common to all human life. We thank Thee for the higher and greater good which men enjoy who live not unto themselves but unto Thee. We bless Thee for daily bread, and for the strength to toil by which we

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earn the sweetness of rest. We bless Thee that we know that He that keeps us slumbers not nor sleeps, but when we sleep or when we wake cares for all our race. We thank Thee for those powers and faculties of mind by which we know that we are and that Thou art, and we thank Thee for that light of science and of reason by which we know that Thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee. Be Thou our Shepherd, and we shall not want.

O Thou who art the Fountain of life, we bless Thee for Jesus Christ, the life and the light of men, by whom there has been added to our few days upon the earth the inheritance of life everlasting; through whom our darkness is turned to light, in whom, though we see not yet all things reconciled unto Thee, we enjoy the hope that all flesh shall see it together, and seeing it, shall rejoice

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in Thee and glorify Thy name. We thank Thee that we have not an high-priest which cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmity, but One who was in all points tried like as we are, yet without sin. We bless Thee that the name which we name in Thy presence, and by which our confidence in Thy fatherly goodness is sustained, is the name of the Holy and Perfect One, who was a stranger only to guile and envy and wickedness, and not to any of our weaknesses or sorrows or temptations, who, though He were a son, yet learned obedience by the things which He suffered. We bless Thee for the poverty of that life of which the only wealth was love for Thee and for mankind. We bless Thee for the suffering and persecution which attended its course, and which brought to light its perfect peace and its heavenly glory. When

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we come into Thy presence and offer our prayers to Thee in the name of Thy well-beloved Son, we know that we do not need to plead with Thee for mercy to pardon us, or for grace to help us; we know also that our infirmities and our unworthiness hinder not our communion with Thee, but bring near Thy fulness to our necessity. We bless Thee that through our great High-Priest, once a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, we have this confidence towards Thee, the Highest, and this sense of fellowship with Thee by faith, though with our eyes we cannot behold Thee.

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III.

BLESSED Lord, who art near us when we think not of Thy presence, and art always near us to bless us, we pray that we may be enabled by Thy grace to draw near to Thee and feel that Thou art near. In this earthly darkness in which our spirits dwell, and in which we see Thee not, we desire to hold fellowship with Thee who art light, by faith beholding Thy glory, by faith assured of Thy goodness. In token of Thy eternal grace Thou causest the sun to shine so that our eyes are gladdened with all the beauty of the earth and sea and sky; may the better light of Thy grace enlighten our minds so that we may behold Thee, the maker of them all, and with all saints comprehend Thy love, how it passeth knowledge.

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We remember before Thee, Thou holy and perfect One, our sins and the sins of our fathers and of all our race, how we with them have ever been unfaithful to the light, which Thou hast caused to shine in the world, and unthankful for the good which Thou hast caused to abound in it. By our example and our negligence, by our preferring our own ease and comfort to the good of others and Thy glory, evil abounds where we are, evil which is our sin and shame. While all Thy works praise Thee, the world in which we are appointed to work, in its abounding evils and miseries, is our condemnation. All that we have is Thine. Reckon not with us as to Thy gifts; in Thy presence, Lord of all, we are unprofitable servants. We have taken Thy talents and used them at our pleasure, or hidden them in the earth, as if Thou wert a hard task-

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master, reaping where Thou hadst not sowed, and gathering where Thou hast not strawed. As the heavens declare Thy glory, the earth which Thou hast given to man is a witness, in all its darkness and misery, of the vanity and sin of which we are all partakers. We acknowledge our part in the abounding evil of the world. We with our fathers, and with all our race have sinned, and loved falsehood, and hated truth and righteousness; hated the light, and loved the darkness rather than the light. And we confess that evil abounds in our lives and in all the world. Thou knowest how often we have been careless of duty, how much we have harboured in our thoughts of that which is impure and evil, how often we have spoken unkind words, and done unkind and ungenerous deeds, how often we have been pleased with unworthy hopes, and been filled with

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base and foolish fears. Thou knowest how weakly we have feared, and shrunk from reproach and suffering in a good cause, and how unworthily we have yearned after and hoped for other good than to be righteous, and to know the peace of the man that pleaseth the Lord aright, and delighteth greatly in His commandments. We thank Thee that the way of transgressors is hard, and that never when we have walked in it have we found it to be good. May the experience which we have thus had of evil deepen in us the longing which Thou hast created in us after Thee, the perfect truth and righteousness and love. Out of the midst of vanity and folly and evil, we cry unto Thee. O living God, our heart and our flesh crieth out for Thee.

Maker and Preserver of all, in whom all do live, we thank Thee for this gladsome and

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glorious world which Thou hast given us for a dwelling-place, for our portion in it where life is varied by the varying year, where pestilence is only by man's neglect, and where temperate seasons admit of toil by day and refreshing sleep by night. We thank Thee for that larger and better world of spirit of which Thou hast also made us the inhabitants, in which Thou hast given us eyes to see and hearts to feel, in which Thou art Lord and we are Thy servants and Thy children. We bless Thee that in this larger world than that which is seen we have converse and fellowship with ages past and generations to come, with brethren who are with us in the flesh, and with friends who have gone from us and are with Thee. We thank Thee for all whom Thou hast raised up and gifted to be workers for Thee and for their fellow-men, to give sight to the

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blind, bread to the hungry, succour to the afflicted and friendless; for all who have had hearts to rejoice in the joy of others and grieve in their grief, and themselves burdened, to carry the heavier burdens of the children of sorrow. For all such whom Thou hast given to the Church of Christ, to our country, to mankind, for every friend of the fatherless and the widow, every helper of the weak and weary and outcast, for every lover of his kind, and every worker for the public good, and every reformer of that which is old and evil in our age and in every age, in this land and in all lands, we praise Thee, we bless Thy name. Thou hast given us gifts of men, great in intellect, greater still in heart, by whom our captivity has been led captive, our life ennobled and enriched, our faith in Thee and in Thy eternal empire established and confirmed. We

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bless Thee for them all, for all of them known to us and for all unknown. We bless Thee for all that by Thy grace they have done for the Church to which we belong, for the country of our birth, for our brethren whose earthly lot is poorer than ours, for the success which has crowned their labours, for the example of faith and patience and courage and charity which they have left behind them.

We bless Thee, merciful Father, for Jesus Christ, for the fulfilment in Him of the hopes of ages and generations before His day, and for the continual increase of His influence in the world, since He came to His own and His own received Him not. We bless Thee that the ages which know His name and receive His testimony concerning Thee, the Father of all, call the peacemakers blessed, and reverence truth and purity and good-

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ness in the lives of small and great. We thank Thee for the assurance that has been given to us by the increase of His government that it shall have no end, that we in our time, as others in ages past, have only seen the dawn of the better day for all mankind in which all nations shall call Him blessed.

May the Spirit of Christ dwell in us richly through faith to make us Thy children, as He was Thy well-beloved Son. May we be His disciples not in word only, nor only by the outward ties of Church or country or profession of faith, but by doing the will of God from the heart.

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IV.

ALMIGHTY God, whom no man hath seen, but who art everywhere present, and in this sinful world present always to bless and save, to Thee shall all flesh come. Thou givest us rest this day from common work and toil, from our ordinary occupations and week-day cares, and we desire to come to Thee as children unto a Father, that we may enjoy here in Thy house a higher and fuller sense of Thy presence and grace than is common in our common lives. The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth; He also will hear their cry and will save them. We are sure that Thou wilt hear us, sure also that what is best for us Thou wilt freely give us. Grant, Lord, that we may desire above all not

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Thy gifts but Thyself, and may seek Thy face with all our heart.

Father, who hast made the world beautiful, and hast given us faculties and powers to enjoy its beauty, we know that Thou art Thyself more to be desired than all Thy works. None of them, nor all of them, satisfy us or fill up the measure of our desires and hopes. In the enjoyment of them, and much more in the midst of changes which affect them, we are filled with a sense of vanity and disappointment and unrest. Thou alone, infinite and eternal Righteousness and Love, art our portion and inheritance. To Thee shall all flesh come. O Thou that hast breathed a spirit into man, and hast given us understanding and knowledge, in Thee and Thee alone can we find rest for our souls. O satisfy us early with mercy and show us Thy salvation.

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There is forgiveness with Thee, O Lord, that Thou mayest be feared, and plenteousness of mercy that Thou mayest be sought unto. We come to Thee and seek Thy face, that our sins which are many may be forgiven us, and that even as sin hath abounded in us, Thy grace may much more abound. O Thou who preventest us with the blessings of goodness and extendest Thy mercy where it is not welcomed or desired, who art kind even to the evil and unthankful, we do not need to entreat Thee to pardon us, but we beseech Thee, enable us by Thy grace truly to repent of our sins, so that Thy pardon may cleanse and Thy redemption save us. We remember before Thee this day, when we seek Thy presence, our past lives, how full they have been of mercies and benefits, and how empty of gratitude and of good deeds,

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how much we have received and how little we have given, in how many ways we have been taught of Thee and how little we have learned except folly, how many opportunities we have had to become purer and better and wiser and happier, and how little we have profited by them, how many of them we have not used at all. We recall to mind how much our religion has been a name, our worship a form, our duty a hard task, our life a vain show; we remember how fondly we have clung to earthly pleasures and satisfactions, and how dull has been our sense of the beauty of holiness and the divinity of goodness. We remember and we confess how like our lives have been to those of the vain multitude, without God and without hope in the world, and how unlike the life of Him who, to save us by His example, was holy and harmless

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and undefiled and separate from sinners. We remember these our sins; we desire to remember them with a godly sorrow. Lord, be merciful to us, and from all our hardness of heart, from all our unbelief and vanity and earthliness be pleased to deliver us.

We thank Thee for Thy unending benefits and Thy boundless pity. Day and night alike declare Thy glory, and in our lives the light and the darkness, prosperity and adversity, joy and sorrow, are witnesses of Thy love. We bless Thee that while sin and folly and ignorance and superstition, and all the evils of which men are guilty, and by which they are oppressed are temporary in their nature, Thou thyself, infinite in goodness, boundless in mercy and truth, art for ever—light in the midst of darkness, order and beauty in the midst of all trouble and

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confusion. We thank Thee that out of seeming evil Thou still bringest forth good, and that as the rains from heaven water the earth and return not whence they came without effect, so all Thy dealings with our race tend to the coming of Thy kingdom and the prevalence of righteousness and truth. We bless Thee for the good which befell men in past times and which we inherit from them; we bless Thee that in our days we see how evils of past times have by Thy care and providence been turned to good. Our fathers suffered not in vain for themselves or us, but what they sowed in tears we reap in joy. Great and good men lived and toiled in past ages, and we have entered into their labours. For the best who live now, for Thy chosen servants in this generation and in all generations to come, the common work and toil and suffer-

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ing of common men have stored the world with good. We bless Thee, Lord of all, that Thy glory and our good are still the same, and that Thou art great, and that Thy kingdom and glory shall have no end.

We bless Thee, Lord, for health, for the comforts of home, for the joys of kindred and acquaintance, for all the unnumbered mercies with which our lot is enriched and blessed. We thank Thee for ability to work and earn our daily bread by daily toil, for toil which makes rest sweet and rest which refreshes us for toil, for the varied experience of human life and its progress from youth to age. We thank Thee for the rain and the sunshine which, in their season, cause the earth to bring forth, and for the constant influences of goodness by which summer and winter, seed time

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and harvest, keep their unfailing order, and yield us their unfailing treasures.

We bless Thee and praise Thee above all for what Thou hast done for us and in us in giving us reasonable souls and revealing to them through Jesus Christ Thine own eternal grace and glory. We know in part and prophesy in part, and see through a glass darkly, but we bless Thee that we know that Thou art, and that Thou art the Rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee, rich in mercy to all that call upon Thee. Blessed be Thy name we are not left alone in this world of mystery, but have Thee beside us, a light to lighten our darkness, an Almighty arm on which to lean in weakness, a very present help in trouble. We thank Thee for Jesus Christ, for the nearness with which we have been brought to Thee in Him, for the new and living way into Thy

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presence which He has opened for us, for that newness of life which comes to us through Him, and that eternal life which is by Him to as many as believe on His name.

Grant, blessed Lord, that having these gifts and benefits we may live to show forth Thy praise, living not unto ourselves but unto Thee. It is Thy world in which we live, may we work Thy work while we are in it. It is Thy bounty that nourishes our life, may we dedicate our life wholly to Thee. May we so live that every day, according to Thy will, we may grow wiser and better and nobler, more full of the spirit of charity and brotherliness, and more free from envy and guile and greed. Every day may we seek to learn some new truth, to gain some new view of Thy glory and Thy grace, and to attain some new virtue and nobleness.

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While all things in heaven and earth and in our mortal bodies change from day to day, may there be increased in our souls the righteousness of Christ, so that when the earthly house of our tabernacle is dissolved we may have a building of God, an house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

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V.

PRAISE waiteth for Thee, O God, in Sion; and unto Thee shall the vow be performed. O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. Iniquities we confess prevail against us, but as for our transgressions Thou wilt purge them away. Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest and causest to approach unto Thee that he may dwell in Thy courts. In the keeping of Thy commandments there is great reward; in the submission of our will to Thy will is all our strength and health and safety and happiness. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps aright. Thy Word only is a light unto our feet and a lamp unto our path. Send forth Thy light and Thy truth, and let them lead us and guide us unto Thy holy hill and unto Thy tabernacle.

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How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts; our soul longeth for the courts of the Lord, our heart and our flesh crieth out for the living God.

Almighty and Eternal God, who art not worshipped of men's hands as though Thou neededst anything, seeing Thou givest unto all life and breath and all things, yet who hast commanded all men everywhere to pray and not to faint, to whom it is a good thing to give thanks, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, help us by the recollection of all Thy good gifts, help us by the gift of Thy good Spirit acceptably to worship Thee through Jesus Christ. O Thou who hast again permitted us to enter Thy gates with praise and Thy courts with thanksgiving, grant us now also, we beseech Thee, access unto the throne of the heavenly grace, that in lowliness of heart

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and mind, yet in the full assurance of faith, we may make our requests known unto Thee.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. O Thou who hast made all things for man and man for Thy glory, we desire to feel and to acknowledge the sinfulness of lives of which often the least part has been reverence for Thy eternal righteousness and truth and goodness. Other gods have had dominion over us. Other blessedness than a heart at peace with Thee, other gain than contentment with Thy will, other good than experience of Thy loving-kindness to them that fear Thee, have turned our affections away from Thy service to the service of

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vanity and sin. There is none that doeth good and sinneth not. Enter not into judgment with Thy servants; in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. Much of our doing has been wrong-doing; the best that we have thought and purposed has come miserably short of the righteousness which is by faith in Thee as good and in goodness as our only life. Our own hearts condemn us in the recollection of evil that we have done, in the knowledge of good to which we have never struggled to attain. We who have received by Jesus Christ the spirit of truth and righteousness, are condemned in Thy sight as being of the world which knew Him not. Have mercy upon us, O Thou who lovest to have mercy and to forgive. Be merciful to us, miserable offenders.

Almighty and Eternal God, whose is the

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day and the night and all things seen and unseen, in whom and for whom and by whom are all things, blessed be Thy holy name. All Thy works praise Thee. From all Thy vast dominion, which is for ever and ever, from every corner of Thy kingdom, of which there is no end, adoration, praise, thanksgiving ascend to Thee continually as the voice of many waters. By Thy power created, by Thy wisdom fashioned for their use and place, by Thy goodness preserved in being, all Thy creatures and all Thy works show forth Thy praise. Creator of the ends of the earth, who faintest not, neither art weary; Father of the spirits of all flesh, in whom all live, for Thy glory are we made conscious of ourselves and of Thy works; in these our bodies and our souls, we are the living to praise Thee. From Thee we came at our

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birth, to Thee we return at our death; all that we are is Thine, and Thine in us, and in all that we have and hope for is Thy praise and glory. Whether we live we live unto the Lord, whether we die we die unto the Lord. No man liveth unto himself, no man dieth unto himself. Grant that in our life and in our death, in all our ways and works, we may seek to glorify Thy name. Our souls would magnify the Lord, our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour. Let the people praise Thee, Lord, let all the people praise Thee.

For what our eyes have seen and our ears have heard of the word of life, for all that righteous men and good men before our day saw of Thy mercy and faithfulness, for the promises which they received as from heaven, for the hopes in which they rested, and with which they were com-

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forted, of good in store for all mankind, for the fulfilment of these promises and the communication of these hopes to all in every age and every place who have believed in Thy name or sought to acquaint themselves with Thee, we praise and bless Thee. O Shepherd of a chosen race, who didst lead Thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron, we bless Thee that Thou hast led all people, though they have not known it; in mercy and in faithfulness guiding the nations by a way they know not into a better country of peace and light, even an heavenly. Wandering, Thou hast reclaimed us; lost, Thou hast found us; sick and captive, Thou hast visited us; sunk in wretchedness and misery, Thou hast cast Thy cords of love about us, and set our feet upon a rock, and established our goings, and put a new

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song into our mouth, even praise unto our God. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath begotten us again to a living hope; to an inheritance in His grace which is incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

As heirs of an incorruptible inheritance, having in us a good hope of eternal life, grant that we may purify ourselves from all that is base and evil, even as Christ was pure, and that we may be workers with Him for the diffusion among mankind of the blessedness of the pure in heart, for whom is the vision of God. Forasmuch as we have not been redeemed with corruptible things, as silver or gold, from our vain conduct received by tradition from our fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, may we not be content with

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any fashion of goodness less pure and perfect than His, may we be the sons of God without rebuke, unworldly because we love Thee, unselfish because Thou hast loved us.

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VI.

O God, we would be thankful unto Thee and praise Thy name, not as those who know Thee only in Thy might, but as those to whom there has been revealed something of the exceeding riches of Thy grace and mercy. We desire to thank Thee, whose glory filleth heaven and earth, for the glory which is Thine in ordering our lives so that it is Thy good and not our evil which prevails in them at last. We cannot forget in Thy presence their shortcomings, errors, sins; their poverty of that which is true and noble, their abundance and variety of ills and miseries, which are the signs of their disorder and unrighteousness. We thank Thee that it is not the evil in them which is ours, but the good in them which is Thine, that is preserved for increase.

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O Thou who art the Father of all men, who art no respecter of persons, we thank Thee for Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy which are over all thy works, not only as we have heard of it from our fathers, but also as we see it and know it in the issues of our lives and the lives of those who live with us. We thank Thee that Thou causest the sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust. We bless Thee that with fatherly care and watchfulness and love, Thou that seest all dost watch for all to bless them and save them, that Thou lovest Thy saints and art the Friend of sinners. We thank Thee for the providence which is over everything Thou hast created to make it all speak of Thee to every ear that hears. We bless Thee for the rain which waters the earth, for the

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flowers which beautify it, for the song of birds, and for all the innocent gladness which is stored for man and beast in this dwelling-place of Thine. We bless Thee that while the heavens last they declare Thy glory, while the earth abides it publishes Thy praise, while the soul of man is conscious of itself it is conscious of Thee; and that thus where we dwell Thou dwellest, and manifestest Thyself to all the sons and daughters of men. We thank Thee that in the midst of darkness of our making Thou art ever, by an older Creation, present to lighten the steps of erring generations. We thank Thee that out of seeming evil Thou still educest good, and better thence again, in a fulness of which Thy thoughts, and not ours, are measures. We thank Thee that even the wrath of man is made to serve Thee, and the remainder of

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wrath Thou dost restrain, making all things work together at last for good. We thank Thee that Thou carest for us all, that in our hours of gladness it is the hand which made us as we are, and gave us the faculties we have, that makes our cup of happiness run over. We thank Thee that Thou art with us in our days of hardship and suffering and sore temptation and calamity, that when our own hearts cry out against us Thou art greater than our hearts, and, understanding all things, blessest us in secret ways; and when we are cast down and hope dies within us, Thou art still with us and leadest us from strength to strength to make Thy strength perfect in our weakness. We remember the sorrows with which we are tried, to be thankful to Thee that they are not meant to crush us, but to build us up in newness of life. We

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remember those who were dearer to us than our own souls, from whom it was the bitterness of death to part, in whose death we entered into the Valley of the Shadow of Death—we remember them before Thee. We bless Thee that they were given to us, and we cease from murmuring that Thou hast taken them away. We remember before Thee their immortality and ours, and we bless Thee for the kingdom of light and life overarching the darkness in which they are hid from our sight. In the days of our sorrow, and in all our days, may we, young and old, have a sense within us of this spiritual kingdom in which the living truly live, and in which the dead are alive unto Thee. May it please Thee, Heavenly Father, to give ear to our thanksgivings and our supplications, and to grant that we may be thankful unto Thee and praise Thy name.

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VII.

ALMIGHTY God, who didst in the beginning create the heavens and the earth, and hast established righteousness by a law in all that Thou hast made, we thank Thee for this day, which reminds us of Him who was delivered from the bondage of death through the power of an endless life, in order to turn every one of us away from his iniquity and to give us the gift of eternal life. We thank and praise Thee this day, Lord of all, for Him, who, coming in the likeness of sinful flesh, condemned sin in the flesh, and having died unto sin once, now dieth no more, but is exalted a Prince and a Saviour to give repentance unto Israel and the remission of sin; by Whom, in regard to our faith in Thy righteousness and our trust in Thy grace, all old

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things have passed away and all things are becoming new. May we as those who are alive from the dead, as those who are renewed in the spirit of their minds, this day worship Thee and glorify Thy name. Our souls would magnify the Lord, and our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour. For He that is mighty hath done great things for us, and holy is His name.

Blessed Lord, who hast made the Sabbath for man, and hast divided between us and our common work and care by one day in seven, we thank Thee for all the opportunities and advantages which it gives us for bringing our work and care into harmony with Thy eternal will. Grant that we may be in the Spirit on the Lord's day. May it please Thee, Father of mercies and God of all grace, to keep our hearts and minds this day, that as He who was Thy well-beloved Son

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turned the earthly Sabbaths to the glory of the Highest by deeds of love and sympathy towards sinners and sufferers of mankind, we also, who profess to be His disciples, may worship Thee and glorify Thy name by using the opportunities which this day gives us, not only of repeating His words, but of following His example. O Thou, to whom feasts and fasts and Sabbaths without love are an abomination, may Thy grace, through the example of Christ, help us more and more to dedicate our Sabbaths and all our days to the work which Thou hast given us to do of communicating to others the good which we have received, and helping the kingdom of Thy truth and love to come in all the world as it has come among us.

Father, we thank Thee for the privilege which we this day enjoy of coming to Thy throne of grace with the burden of our

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shortcomings and sins. Another six days have passed in which we have had opportunity to gather experience of Thy goodness and to work for Thee as those who know that Thou art good. In these days, as in all our days, we acknowledge that we have been unprofitable servants. Temptation has come to us, that we might overcome evil with good, but we have been rather overcome of evil. Thou hast loaded us with Thy benefits, that through them Thy salvation might be always nigh unto us, and the tokens of Thy presence and grace keep our faith from failing; but we have received them unthinkingly and used them and loved them selfishly, and the good that was in them has been changed by us to that which is vain and evil. We, who are called in Christ Jesus to a heavenly life, acknowledge the worldliness of our lives. We have been

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careful and anxious about many things for which those who are worldly are most anxious and careful. But He whom we call Lord, and who is the manifestation of Thy invisible glory, has presented Himself to us in the poor and sick and erring and ignorant and unworthy of our kind, and we have not been glad or willing to minister unto Him in them. He who once came unto His own has thus come again, and we, like others before us, have not received Him. Have mercy upon us, and help us to bless Thee, that the light which is in us has thus been shown to be darkness.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who art reconciling the world unto Thyself through Him, we pray that Thy mercy may be upon us as Thou hast made us to know Thee and to hope in Thee. O Thou who hast been revealed to our thought

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and our hope not alone as ready to forgive but as mighty to save even unto the uttermost, who art the Saviour of all men, especially of all that believe, grant us the aid of Thy spirit that steadfastly trusting in Thy goodness to us and to all men we may as Thy creatures worship Thee, and as Thy children love Thee. As we cannot worship Thee or stand in Thy holy place, pretending to have clean hands and a pure heart, we would offer, if we could, the sacrifice of thanksgiving as those who know the mercy of the Lord, how it is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and who are assured of the love and pity which pass understanding. We bless Thee for those bounties of Thy providence, which are to us tokens of Thy grace, and for those benefits of liberty, enlightenment, and security in a Christian land, which Thy

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mercy has made to us as common as the things that supply our bodily wants. We acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. We bless Thee that we know, that we are taught by our experience of good and evil in the world, that Thou dost rule only to bless. We thank Thee for all that we enjoy as Thy gift—for our friends as made dear to us by Thy friendship for us; for our health as preserved by the care which suffers not a sparrow to fall to the ground; for our wealth in all that is the real good of life as lent to us from Thy treasury; for work and rest, for day and night, for life and death as all devised by Thee, and appointed and administered by Thee for our good and the good of all that live and breathe. We would be thankful unto Thee, and praise Thy name.

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VIII.

GREAT and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of Saints; all Thy works praise Thee and Thy saints bless Thee.

O Thou, who art not worshipped of men's hands, as though Thou needest anything, seeing Thou givest unto all life and breath and all things, we remember in Thy presence that Thou art glorified whether we give or withhold our worship, for Thou hast made all and preservest all, and in the being and preservation of all Thou dost record Thy praise. Heaven is Thine, the earth also is Thine, and all that live therein are the living to praise Thee. As having received from Thee intelligence to know that Thou art, and hearts to worship Thee because Thou art good, we desire to mingle the

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voice of our praise and thanksgiving with the voices of all Thy worshipping creation and with the songs of the just made perfect through their faith. Holy is the Lord God Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.

Lord, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou visitest him? O Thou, whose nature and whose glory it is to regard with kindness and patience and pity the meanest thing that lives, without whose knowledge a sparrow falleth not to the ground, we adore Thy mercy and goodness in caring for us and visiting us, who being made in Thine image, and placed in the seat of dominion over Thy works, have often made ourselves less than the least of Thy creatures through our vanity and sin. Not alone because man is frail, and Thou hearest his cry for help

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when he is in extremity, but above all because man is vain and vile, and yet Thou dost not turn away Thy compassions from him, but in open and secret ways most manifold art his help and succour, his refuge and fortress, we bless Thee, we adore the eternal love and grace.

Almighty God, who in the beginning didst cause the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Thou that dwellest in the light, and art found only of those that seek Thee in the light, enable us through Him whom Thou hast given to be the light of the life of men, to seek Thee and find Thee. Help us to put away from us the works of darkness and the darkness which is in our hearts through our evil works, and as children of the light and of the day to

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come unto Thee that our deeds may be made known.

Blessed and merciful Lord, whose name is holy, from whom the darkness cannot hide, to whom the light cannot reveal, to whom all things are naked and open, we come to Thee to acknowledge and confess our evil works, our cold hearts, our unprofitable service. We will arise and go unto our Father, and will say to Him, "Father, we have sinned, and are no more worthy to be called Thy children." We bless Thee for the love and pity which assure us that we cannot come to Thee in vain. O Thou who knowest us better than we know ourselves, to whom the guilty thoughts and deeds that we keep from the knowledge of others do not need to be confessed, who hast marked and known all our unthankfulness for mercies, our slothfulness in duty, our

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selfishness in enjoyment, our impatience in trouble, our vanity and blindness and ignorance and unbelief, we bless Thee that Thou dost permit us to call upon Thee and acknowledge our sin, having this faith toward Thee, that, if we confess our sin, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Blessed God, Father of our spirits, cleanse us from earthly dross and vileness, from uncleanness, from the love of the world and the love of self, and from the stain of habitual transgressions. We are Thy children, and these our sins hide from us the light of Thy countenance; we are Thy servants, and they hinder us from doing Thy work; we are members one of another, and they make us the enemies one of another. By them we offend Thee, by them we injure

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our own souls and the souls of others. Be merciful to us, and from these and all our sins deliver us.

Gracious Lord, who hast so manifested Thy unspeakable mercy in the coming of Jesus Christ, that though we have sinned we might not despair, and though we suffer we might not perish, let His example instruct us, and His life save us, and His death quicken us, so that we may depart from evil and do good, so that we may die unto sin and live unto righteousness, and even while we fear because of our sin we may yet more rejoice because the abundance of Thy grace has been manifested through sin.

Lord, have mercy upon us through Thy loving-kindness declared to us by Jesus Christ. Hear us, O Lord. Grant us Thy peace.

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IX.

BLESSED Lord, who hast given us this day of rest and quiet for the offering of our prayer and thanksgiving unto Thee, for the reading of Thy Word, and for communion one with another, as Thy children we desire to bless Thee for this day and for all our days, for this life and for that which is to come, and for all Thy benefits and gifts. We thank Thee that in compassion for our weakness Thou, who art more glorified by our works than by our words, dost permit us to rest from work this day, and to seek in the ordinances of Thy house Thy mercy to pardon and Thy grace to help us.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, to show forth His loving-kindness in the morning and His faithfulness every night. Thou art our God and we will

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praise Thee, our Saviour and we will bless Thee, our Father and we will be glad in Thee. We bless Thee for Thy goodness to us and all men, for all those benefits which make life blessed, and for all those mercies which alleviate its ills. We bless Thee for our country and our friends, for teachers who teach knowledge, and workers who are examples of faith and patience and nobleness. We bless Thee for the hopes with which Thou hast comforted us and all men under the present evil of our lot and the present miseries of the world. We bless Thee for the Gospel and for Him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith, by whom we know that Thou art love, and that all things work together for good to them that love Thee. Thou art good and doest good; it is Thy glory to be kind even to the evil and unthankful. Thy mercies are

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heaped upon the undeserving, and upon them that deserve ill Thou bestowest good. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. The Lord is good unto all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

O Thou who hast given us life and breath, and all things, and requirest from us—not alone for Thy glory, but for our good—a right and thankful use of all Thy gifts, this day instruct us how to live; teach us so to pass through the things that are seen and temporal, that we may not finally lose the things that are eternal. O Thou who art the only Life, whom to know is life everlasting, who hast been the home and dwelling-place of all those who in Thy faith and fear have been pilgrims and strangers upon the earth, may Thy Spirit help us this day to know and to believe Thy promises,

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that we also may look for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God; that, turning from vanity and sin to righteousness and love, and from the world to Thy blessed service, we may find rest to our souls. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon God. There is no want to them that fear Thee. In all the troubles and temptations of this life may we have greater than earthly power to help us; in grief may we have better than earthly solace to comfort us; in sickness and the hour of death may we have better than earthly support on which to lean—in life and death may we be Thine and rest our souls on Thee.

Help us to be grateful to Thee for all those gifts and benefits which bring gladness to our hearts, and enable us to be thankful to Thee for all those privations and griefs

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which cause us to turn to Thee for help. The Lord is the portion of our souls. He only is our Rock and our Salvation. He is our defence, we shall not be greatly moved. Glory be to the Father.

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X.

BLESSED Lord, who art worshipped of all the host of heaven, and art exalted above the thoughts of all Thy creatures whether in heaven or earth, we bless Thee that Thou dwellest with him who is of a humble spirit and dost not despise the sighing of the contrite in heart. We thank Thee that while we know in part and believe in part, and our worship is but a poor endeavour to come into Thy presence and be conscious of Thy majesty and goodness, Thou art pleased by necessity of our nature to require our worship. Let the people praise Thee, Lord, let all the people praise Thee. In our blindness and ignorance we have often sought other help than Thine in trouble, other blessing than Thy favour in prosperity, other strength than Thy grace in temptation

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and trial. But Thou art all our salvation and desire, and we desire to come to Thee and taste and see that Thou art good. There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift Thou upon us the light of Thy countenance.

Almighty God, who knowest that we with our fathers and with all our race have sinned and done evil, help us to believe in Thy forgiving grace, that we may come to Thee with the sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart, and be accepted with Thee and cleansed from our sin, and saved from our iniquity. Forgive us, O Lord, most merciful and gracious, the sin of which our hearts accuse us. Pardon the evil deeds and the vain and impure thoughts that rise up to condemn us in the presence of Thy light and truth. Forgive us that greater unrepented sin in which we have lived,

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when we have lived without God in the world, forgetting Him who has made us and preserved us, despising Him that bought us, and lightly esteeming the Rock of our Salvation. Forgive us, O Lord, those many days and years of our life in which our hearts have been visited by no thought of Thee, no reverence for Thy greatness, no gratitude for Thy love. Forgive us those many days in which we have been dead even while we lived, in which we have been careful and anxious about our own comfort and ease and pleasure, and have despised others both in their griefs and joys. Forgive us that we have feared to die and meet Thee in judgment, and have not been ashamed to live, in defiance of Thy will, a vain and evil life. Forgive us that we have been shown the way of life in Christ Jesus and yet have chosen the way of death, pre-

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ferring the company of vain persons to fellowship with Thee in love and truth.

O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. We will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in our mouth. Blessed be Thy holy name, O Lord, for Thy goodness in giving us life and preserving us in being, in supplying us with food and raiment, and making us members of that whole family in Heaven and in earth who are named with the name of Christ, and to whom Thou hast given powers of reason and the knowledge of Thy existence and Thy goodness. We thank Thee for Thy goodness to us and all men in causing enlightenment and happiness continually to increase in the earth, and in causing barbarism and cruelty to be displaced by the blessings of civilization and peace. We bless Thee that as all the ar-

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rangements of nature are adapted to secure man's bodily welfare, so also all the arrangements of providence tend to advance his intelligence and to enrich his spiritual well-being. We thank and praise Thee that the evils which befell nations and classes in past times have, by Thy care and providence, been turned to good, so that we reap in joy what former generations sowed in tears. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy. We bless Thee for the freedom and peace and prosperity which we enjoy in this favoured land; for all those institutions and agencies which have for their end and aim the good of the whole body of the people; for all those public workers and benefactors whose lives are devoted to the public service. We thank Thee for the wisdom of our teachers,

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for the uprightness of our judges, for the integrity of our statesmen and lawgivers, and above all we thank Thee for all those who in various ranks of life are examples of Christian faith and patience. We thank and praise Thee that though wars have not yet ceased many are the nations that love peace and long for the day of universal peace. We bless Thee and praise Thee that our own nation and many neighbouring nations enjoy the blessings of settled government and religious freedom, and that there are signs among them all of the coming of Thy kingdom. We bless Thee, Lord of all, for the lot that has been assigned to us among the things that are seen, for our discipline in the knowledge of things unseen and eternal. We bless Thee for all the comforts and enjoyments which tempt us to desire prosperity and abundance. We

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bless Thee for the admonition which there is in trouble and adversity. The Lord is good unto all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. Above all we thank Thee for whatever grace Thou hast given us to desire Thy favour as better than life, for any desire we have felt to resist sin and to attain salvation, for any warmth of friendship or of love we have experienced in our hearts. We bless Thee for Him by whom grace and truth have come afresh to mankind, in whom all old things are passed away, and all things are become new. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered, whose love passeth understanding, be merciful to us Thy servants and increase our faith that these things which we have

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only heard with our ears concerning Thy mercy we may truly believe with our hearts. We know in part and prophesy in part concerning Thee, who art the perfect goodness and truth, but even as Thou art good, teach us to love Thee, as Thou art kind and pitiful, help us to trust Thee, that our lives may abound in the comfort of Thy friendship and favour.

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XI.

HOLY is the Lord God Almighty, the whole earth is full of His glory. Let the people praise Thee, O Lord, let all the people praise Thee.

O Thou who in Thy perfect holiness as in Thy boundless mercy art ever nigh unto us, and who dost by Thy presence in the world and in our hearts convince us of sin, while Thou dost claim us as Thy children, grant that we may come to Thee as unto a Father with love and confidence, but also because we are unworthy and sinful, with lowliness of heart and mind, offering unto Thee the sacrifice of a contrite and broken heart. A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Be pleased, O merciful Father, to free us from vanity and ignorance, from the do-

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minion of selfishness and the curse of unbelief, that we may know ourselves as Thou knowest us, and know Thee as Thou art revealed to us in Christ Jesus, so that we may truly repent and turn to Thee and find mercy with Thee and obtain life, even life eternal in Thy favour and grace. Let the wicked man forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. O Thou whose faithfulness is in the heavens and whose mercy reacheth unto the clouds, with whom there is forgiveness that Thou mayest be feared

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and plenteous mercy that Thou mayest be sought after, we thank Thee that this day we are permitted to seek Thee within the courts of Thy house, and to confess the sin and unworthiness of all our daily common life. Thou art manifesting Thy goodness to us from day to day in calling us to labour with the morning light, in giving us rest at night, in appointing to us our share of work and care and temptation and sorrow; for in all this Thou art giving us opportunity to serve Thee and glorify Thee, but in all this we confess we are unprofitable servants. The good that we would do, we do not. And not alone do we offend Thee who art good by neglecting to do good, but we deny Thy presence and despise Thy grace by our lives of vanity and our doing of evil. Our impatience in trouble, our weakness in temptation, our selfishness and ingratitude

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in prosperity, O Lord, forgive us. Forgive us also for Thy great mercies' sake all that we have thought impurely or uncharitably, all that we have done unjustly or unkindly, all that we have desired or hoped for selfishly or ungodly. Forgive us the sin which clings to us from our earlier years, and the sins which in our weak hearts are nourished and strengthened by our present temptations.

Gracious and merciful God, who hast called us to newness of life in the revelation of Thy mercy in Jesus Christ, forgive us our unchristian selfishness and sloth, our carefulness and anxiety for many things that are pleasing to ourselves, our negligence in regard to much that is necessary for others; forgive us our doubts and fears and unbeliefs regarding Thee, our coldness and indifference in regard to our brethren.

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Save us from all our guilt and blindness, from our vanity and worldliness, and keep us as those that are alive from the dead to live unto Thee.

Praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Sion; and unto Thee shall the vow be performed. Iniquities we confess prevail against us; but as for our transgressions, Thou shalt purge them away. We praise Thee, Lord and Maker of all, for life and breath and all things, for those powers and faculties of mind with which Thou hast endowed us, and by which Thou hast made us heirs of the wealth and beauty of the world that now is and of the grandeur and mystery of that which is invisible. We thank Thee for those affections by which we are united to our kind, and by which we may be drawn to Thee, for all we love and all that love us, for the reward of food and raiment

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which is given for our daily toil, and for all the return of sweetness and enjoyment which we receive from any obedience to Thy will and any effort to know Thee in Thy works, for day and night, for work and rest, for youth and age, for life and death and all the changes of this life, and for the unchanging goodness which underlies them all and orders them all for our good and the good of all men.

King eternal, immortal, invisible, whose kingdom ruleth over all, we bless Thee that Thy kingdom is not force but goodness. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. Let the people praise Thee, Lord, let all the people praise Thee. Blessed be the most high God, our Father! Thy thoughts are not our thoughts, nor Thy ways our ways; Thy mercy is not limited to persons

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and to races, but comprehendeth all that live and breathe. Blessed be Thy name; Thy glory is shown and Thy kingdom established and advanced, not in destroying and punishing our guilty and feeble and blinded race, but in saving and blessing them, leading men and nations by a way that they know not to a land of security and peace. O Thou that didst lead Joseph like a flock, Thou hast been the Guide and Saviour of all men in all generations, their sure defence in trouble, their light in darkness, their life in death. O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

God of all grace, who hast revealed Thy mercy to us and in us, that we might be redeemed from the service of vanity and abound in love toward Thee and toward

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one another, grant us grace to praise Thee, as with our lips so also with our lives. Teach us to find in the commonest work of our daily lives opportunity to serve Thee and a divine call to be children of the Highest. Help us, after the example of the holy and the just One, who fulfilled all righteousness in a life of poverty, humiliation and pain, to be Thy children and servants in the midst of earthly toil and temptation, in the duties of home, in all our relations to our kind, in prosperity and adversity, in life and death. Teach us after His example to be kind even to the evil and unthankful; to lend, hoping for nothing again; to do good without hope of reward. Help us, looking to Him and following Him, to be temperate in abundance, cheerful in trial, patient and resigned in tribulation and in the hour of death.

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Thou who art the life, teach us to live; Thou who hast loved us and redeemed us, help us by Thy grace to live by love, that death may not have dominion over us; but that the life which we now lead in the flesh being led by faith in Christ, we may share His resurrection and come at last whither He is gone.

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XII.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, whose perfections are revealed in heaven and earth and in the souls of men created by Thee, and above all in Jesus Christ, we desire, as those to whom not only Thy power and greatness but also Thy love and goodness have been made known, to adore and bless Thee. Not as we ought, but as we are able, we lift up our souls to Thee and bless Thy holy name for what Thou hast made us, and for what Thou art, for the love which Thou dost manifest to all Thy creatures, and for the boundless unexhausted grace and mercy which is Thy nature and glory.

All this vast universe in which Thou hast given us a dwelling-place is the witness of Thy power and greatness; day unto day

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uttereth speech, night unto night showeth knowledge of Thee. All Thy works praise Thee, and we desire that, as they in their unconscious beauty and grandeur declare Thy glory, so our hearts and our lips may speak of Thy goodness and tell of Thy wondrous works. Thou art in heaven, and art everywhere present in the earth; and the world, because it is full of Thee, is full of beauty and glory; dwell also in our hearts that we may be like Thee, and manifest something of Thy beauty, of Thy holiness and goodness. Our souls would magnify the Lord, and our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour.

Gracious and merciful Lord God, we thank Thee that while the knowledge of Thy perfections convinces us of sin, we are encouraged by that knowledge to confess our sin, and are assured by it that if we confess our sin, Thou art faithful and just to

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forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Thou hast placed our sin, even our secret sin, in the light of Thy countenance. Thou hast brought to light in Jesus Christ at once all Thy goodness and all our evil, all Thy perfection and all our infirmity and unworthiness. By the revelation of Thy love toward us Thou hast manifested our selfishness, by the manifestation of Thy perfect goodness Thou hast revealed our vanity and sin. Even as we learn to know Thee more truly in Thy works and in Thy Word, and are more assured of what is most certain in our knowledge of Thee; even as the fear of the Lord is increased in the earth, and superstition and misbelief are displaced by light and knowledge, so do we learn to feel how poor and miserable are our best endeavours to serve Thee, and how great is the sum of

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our unprofitableness and our evil. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. Reveal to us, we beseech Thee, more clearly and fully Thy perfect truth and Thy glorious righteousness, that we may not be misled by false and worldly views of justice or right, but that we may truly know and entirely love that which is good and true, and shrink from all that is base and evil. Thus be pleased to convince us of sin; thus enable us to repent of that evil which we still love, and of that vanity to which we still cling. We acknowledge that even now our own hearts condemn us. We have known what is good and what the Lord hath required of us, but sometimes in weakness, often in wilfulness, we have spoken that which was insincere and untrue, done that which was unjust and unkind, denied Thy grace striving with us, yielded to the tempter tempting

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us to evil. We confess, Lord, before Thee those many sins of which, in the course of our lives, our consciences have accused us, but which are now forgotten by us. We remember those great sins which, because they were great and heinous, we cannot forget. We know that whether we remember or forget them their wages is death till we repent of them and turn from them. Save us, O Lord, from these and from all our sins. Deliver us from evil, and from the vanity of a life empty of Thy grace. Hide Thy face from our trespasses and remember not our transgressions.

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XIII.

O THOU who art the God and Father of all men, we bless Thee for Thy goodness to all, for the providence which watches over all nations, and the love to which every individual of our race is dear and precious. We thank Thee for the steadfast order and the unfailing beauty of nature, for the earth bringing forth abundantly its yearly harvest, and the sea yielding its treasures to the dwellers on its shores, and affording a highway to nations, and for the heavens above us filling our souls with awe and wonder. As in the reviving life of spring, so also in the fulness of autumn we desire to trace Thy hand and to acknowledge Thy goodness. We thank Thee for the bread of life which cometh down from heaven whereof if a man eat

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he shall never die, for that eternal harvest of grace and truth which has been given to us in the fulness of time in Jesus Christ. We bless Thee for all who have laboured and striven to gather souls into Thy garner, and to cultivate in them the fruits of the spirit, which are love and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We bless Thee for the increase which has been given to their labours. We bless Thee that by the labours of the apostles and martyrs and missionaries and preachers and teachers who lived and died in faith, we in our time and in our country, and millions more of the human race along with us, are enriched with the fulness of God, filled with hope towards Thee and confidence in Thy purpose of mercy towards all mankind. We thank Thee for Thy goodness to them in giving them nobleness

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to labour for Thee, and for Thy goodness to us in making us heirs of the good for which they laboured.

O Thou who art about us to bless us, and who orderest all our steps, we thank Thee for this life, and all its blessings and trials and temptations. We thank Thee for the peace and comfort which it gives us in every condition and in every place to feel that Thou art near us, and that Thou art good, and that even our evil cannot change Thy purpose of grace and mercy toward us. We bless Thee for all the sweetness which is infused into the bitterest hours of our life by the sympathy of our kind, and for the cheerfulness which is lent to the hour of death, by the knowledge that Thou art for ever and Thy years and Thy grace shall not fail. For Thy Son, Jesus Christ, we bless Thee, in whom

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Thou hast made Thy goodness known to us, and by whom Thou art imparting Thy goodness to men; by whom a new heaven has been revealed to us, and through whom all things are being made new on earth. We thank Thee for all that His life has done to make our life better and happier, and for the life to come of glory and honour which He has brought to light.

O Thou whose mercies cannot be numbered, whose perfections cannot be uttered, grant that we may be enabled by Thy grace so to use all Thy mercies that we may be changed more and more into Thy likeness, and that our imperfection may put on the image of Thy glory. Help us to know and to believe with open heart and mind what is revealed of Thyself in Thy works and in Thy word, and to distinguish between the letter which killeth and the

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Spirit which maketh alive, between the commandments and traditions of men and Thy ever-enduring law, and give us faith and patience to do according to what we know. May we account our days opportunities to serve Thee and know Thee. May we who know that Thou art good account it our meat and drink to do Thy will. Help us, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, to be steadfast in striving for what is right, and in searching for the truth. and in doing what is good and kind. Strengthen us by Thy might to live not unto ourselves but unto Thee, and to walk as pilgrims and strangers, looking for a city whose builder and maker is God.

O Thou without whom nothing is good or profitable, be pleased to shed abroad Thy love in our hearts, and teach us Thy fear, and to Thee the Father be glory for ever.

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XIV.

O God, who hath commended to our hearts as Thine the words which were spoken by Christ, that except we become as little children we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven; give us a meek and childlike spirit that we may seek to know Thy truth, and strive to do Thy will, and may enter into Thy rest. May it please Thee of Thy great mercy, ministering grace to us in the time of our temptation and our failing purpose, to enable us to strive against the spirit of pride and envy and selfishness which is in us and in the world, and to overcome what is evil in ourselves and in the world by faith in Thee, who art good, and doest good always.

Father of Light, the entrance of whose Word giveth light, grant that as children

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of the light and of the day we may come unto Thee that our deeds may be made known. May we come unto the light that our evil deeds, our deeds and thoughts of vanity and sin may be made known, that we may see them as Thou seest them, and know the evil of them as it is known to Thee. May we come unto the light that all our deeds may be made known, that we may feel that none of them are insignificant or fruitless as regards good and evil, but that all of them are evil or good, and serve to advance Thy kingdom in our hearts and in the world, or to hinder its coming. May we come unto the light that the deeds which in our conscience Thou hast commanded us to do may be made known, that we may feel that they are not commanded because Thou art the master of all men, but because Thou art every man's

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friend, not because they are burdensome to flesh and blood, but because to the spirit they are life and peace. In Thy light may we see light. May the light which lighteneth every man that cometh into the world so increase and rule in our souls that we may love truth for its own sake, and strive after righteousness as salvation and eternal life; and that we may shun all the works of darkness, all falsehood and hypocrisy and unrighteousness, not as forbidden only but as hateful, not alone as condemned, but as condemnation and misery and death. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. O Thou who hast given us in Christ a Saviour, who is the Life and the Light of men, grant that we his disciples and followers may be children of the light and of the day, seeing, as in the

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day that Thou orderest the world in righteousness, and givest peace to men only along with grace to do Thy will; assured by the shining of the Sun of Righteousness within us that godliness with contentment is great gain, that Thy yoke is easy and Thy burden light, that Thy commandments are true and righteous altogether, more to be desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold.

Drive away by the light of the gospel the darkness which lingers in our minds, the unbelief and selfishness and superstition which find refuge in their darkness. O Thou who hast established a kingdom upon earth which cannot be moved, and hast by Jesus Christ revealed it to us, grant that what was hid from ages and from generations of its greatness and its glory and its constant progress, may be manifest to us. Enable us by Thy grace to behold Thy

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kingdom extending itself in the world by means of all events and by all experience of Thy creatures; and help us to strive and labour that it may come everywhere, and be finally perfect in the salvation of all our race. There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift Thou upon all mankind the light of Thy countenance. Satisfy us early with Thy mercy. Show us Thy salvation. When we are troubled and perplexed by the evil in our own hearts, from which we cannot be wholly delivered in this life, when we are in despair of the world at the sight of the abounding misery and sin and death for which there is no redress or cure, be Thou our hope, be Thy kingdom our confidence. Show us Thy salvation still hasting to its accomplishment, show us Thy light slowly dispersing the darkness, thy grace still over-

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coming iniquity and strife and wrong, Thy good, which is good indeed, still brought out of our evil. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. We believe in Thy mercy and grace towards some men; help us to believe in Thy goodness and loving-kindness towards all men. We believe that Thy will concerning some men is that they should be saved; help us to believe that Thy will and purpose concerning all men is that they should not die, but live. Grant this for Jesus' sake.

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XV.

ALMIGHTY God, who art the Saviour of all men, especially of all that believe, who in evil times of the Church of Christ didst minister comfort to the souls of suffering believers in the hope that He who came once in great humility should come again to reign and govern among men—we bless Thee for the consolation which is given to us under the adversities of our lot and under the present miseries of the world by the progress of his rule and influence. We thank Thee for all we see of Thy purpose, not by might but by the secret operation of Thy Spirit, to put all things under His feet, and through Him who came from the God of Peace to reconcile all things on earth to Thee. While still we see in part and prophesy in part of the coming of Thy king-

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dom, may we, in the light of the gospel of glad tidings which are for all mankind, look forward to a time and believe in it and long for it, when the evil of the world that now is being consumed as if by fire, good shall be where evil was; when to better minds and purer hearts all old things shall have passed away and all things shall be made new; when righteousness and truth and peace and innocent delight shall abound, as now iniquity and inhumanity and religion which is a cloak of covetousness; when all men shall confess that the Crucified One is anointed and glorified to the glory of God the Father. Merciful Father, whose will is our salvation, hasten the coming of that time by our lives who now live, and by our work and suffering who now labour and endure. This grant for Jesus' sake.

Enlighten us by Thy light, our Father,

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in all that concerns the truth of Thy nature and Thy will. Drive away by Thy light not only the darkness which is in us by nature, but that darkness which is spread abroad from man to man, and that light which was light to other ages and has become darkness. If the light that is in us be darkness, how great is that darkness. May we fear to attribute to Thee, Eternal Mercy and Righteousness, anything of our own selfishness or waywardness or evil or disregard of perfect truth and justice; and may we humbly seek to know Thee as Thou hast revealed Thyself in Him who has revealed Thee as our Father. May we, laying aside what we have vainly learned or imagined of Thy nature, learn to worship thee in spirit and in truth as Eternal Truth and Goodness. With all saints, with all whose experience has been of other than

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earthly good, who have tasted and seen that Thou art good, who have discovered that Thy judgments are blessings, may we attain to the assurance that Thy love passeth knowledge and is great beyond our belief or hope, that it is not limited by man's thoughts of it, but is more and greater than can be measured. Thy mercy is in the heavens, Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds, Thy righteousness is like the great mountains, Thy judgments are a great deep. O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast. How precious is Thy loving-kindness, O Lord, therefore the sons of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, and Thou shalt make them to drink of the rivers of Thy pleasures. For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light.

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XVI.

ALMIGHTY and Eternal, hidden from all eyes, but near to all human hearts in all their necessities and all their hopes and fears, this day, when the bustle of our ordinary life is hushed, may we draw near to Thee and find that our true life is in Thee. Because so much of our life is lived in that which is outward and changeable, our thoughts of Thee are often and too much as if Thou wert a God afar off, unknown and unfelt, as Thou art unseen and unsought. But in all that Thou hast made us to be and know and feel, in all our experience of life, Thy thought is revealed to our thought, and in the revelation of Thyself we desire to feel that Thou who art a Spirit art ever present to our spirit. May we know Thee as the Source and

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Fountain of all our love and hope and gladness, and of all that varied enjoyment which makes us cling to life, and of that trust and confidence in the working of One who is invisible for the good of all, by which we are strengthened and supported to bear its ills. Whatever any of our race have thought and felt and known, so that they have been conscious of a life within them, not limited by sense and time, but going beyond and above the bounds of time and sense, has been from Thee, and is to them and us a most sure word of testimony concerning Thee. Thou hast never left Thyself without a witness among men; and this testimony, which Thou dost give of Thy existence and nature and will in the thought and feeling of mankind, is that witness, which is greatest and best and surest of all. In this, we desire to feel

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Thou art ever nigh to us, and we to Thee; present, indeed a very present help in trouble, when our hearts cry aloud for Thee; but present also and equally in that joy in Thy works, and in that delight in Thy gifts in which too often we are forgetful to name Thy name, and to utter Thy praise.

The heavens declare Thy glory, the firmament showeth Thy handiwork, day unto day uttereth speech of Thee. Still more, in the constant working of the heart and thought of man, working to one end—to reveal in all that is without us and in our lives and in our hearts an order which is eternal and which is good, more lasting than the hills, more unsearchable than the foundations of the deep—in all this, more than in all else, Thou art a present God and not one afar off. What men in past times

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and belonging to other races than ours have thus learned of Thee, we desire to accept and value as from Thee. May no wilfulness or prejudice or carelessness or superstition hinder us from welcoming or enjoying these Thy most precious gifts given at sundry times and in diverse manners and among all peoples. May we have understanding and wisdom to value and to use that which is thus given us from day to day as a revelation of Thy thought to our thought in our own experience of life and of the world. Thus having fellowship and communion with Thee, the Father of all, not less truly and directly than any of Thy gifted children, who have spoken in Thy name and testified of Thy might and glory and grace, may we be free to enjoy all that is good in our earthly lot without fear or distrust or taint of super-

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stitious scruples, and when our desires and passions conflict with reason and conscience may we thus learn to bow to a judgment in ourselves which is truly Thine.

Lord of Light and of all that the light reveals, Lord of all men and of all hearts and lives, as children of Thine, not ignorant of Thee, though not perceiving Thee by sight or hearing, may we, as our days pass swiftly away, grudge the light of every day in which we are not more conscious than before of all the beauty and glory of Thy works in the heavens above us and in the earth beneath us. Still more may we grudge the loss of every day in which we are not more alive than before to the fact that in our hearts, in all the experience and thought and feeling of us and of all mankind, the Father of all is present to all, a light to lighten our dark-

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ness, a shepherd to lead us and feed us in green pastures and by living streams.

O Thou who dwellest not in temples made with hands, but art nigh unto all that call upon Thee, and dost find Thy chosen dwelling-place in pure and lowly hearts, grant that our communion with Thee the Father may be through Thy Son Jesus Christ, and through the experience of Thy grace to all the children of God. Though Thy presence in the world and in the experience of all Thy rational creatures is without variableness, and that which it has been, it is and shall be, yet we in our blindness and dulness of spirit need to seek for it. In the ordinary changefulness of all that is without us Thy presence is veiled from sight, and still more is it withdrawn from us in the unordered experience of our lives and in the movements of the spirit

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within us. Where we are ignorant of Thy works and of Thy ways, Thy presence is hidden from us as in darkness; and it is hidden from us as in light, in what we know of the things that Thou hast made—in all our knowledge, science, and wisdom. It is high, Most Mighty! we cannot attain unto it. Thou who art in all and through all, by whom all things were and are—the light as well as the darkness, the mystery and sorrow of our lives as well as all their satisfaction and enjoyment—Thou who art the cause of all causes and source of all life and being, art beyond our thoughts of Thee, even the highest of them, as far as heaven is above the earth; and it is at the best only the shadow of Thy presence of which we can be conscious, when we look to that marvellous order which is without us, and when we think of the unresting world of

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thought and feeling within us. Canst thou find out the depths of God, canst thou find out the end of the Almighty? It is as high as heaven, what canst thou do? deeper than hell, what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea. In the light of Thy countenance we live, while we live, and in that light all Thy works stand fast and rejoice together; but Thou art a God that hidest Thyself, so that none may see and live.

Therefore we bless and praise Thee, this day and all our days, that our communion is with Thee the Father through Jesus Christ Thy Son, and through all the favoured ones of our race in whose spirit, as in His, Thy Spirit has had a dwelling-place. By Thy Spirit working in Him and in them the life that is divine and eternal, they have been chosen and separated from their kind to

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receive blessing and honour and praise from us, who are still too much of the earth earthly, and are enslaved in the lower life of sense against which they struggled and over which they were victorious. To Him and to them, we bless and praise Thee, it was given to see in our life, more than in the heavens above or in the earth beneath, Thy presence may be seen and felt turning all that seems poorest and meanest in the conditions of the most despised existence into greatness and beauty and glory. We desire that their thoughts of Thee and of the world and of the life of man may be our thoughts, that their aims and purposes and endeavours may be ours; that we may have communion and fellowship with them in the desire to live not unto ourselves but unto Thee, and so to escape from the bondage of sense and live for ever in the larger

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life of the spiritual and divine. Thus, O our Father, we bless Thee that it is possible for us to have communion with Thee through fellowship with them. Evermore give us of the bread of this fellowship and communion that in it we, who see Thee not, and are troubled often because Thy presence is veiled from us, may have experience of peace in the thought of Thee, which the world cannot give and cannot take away.

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XVII.

We will say of the Lord, He is our God, our refuge in Him will we trust. O Thou eternal, who to our minds dwellest as if in heaven rather than upon earth, because evil is in the world by sin, but who art present everywhere, as in heaven so also upon earth, to be a help in trouble and light in darkness to the children of men, may we feel Thy presence with us now and here in thoughts of Thee which are free from doubt and full of peace and gladness. As we rest from work this day may we live the life of thought and feeling where it is best and purest in Thy presence, conscious of Thy being and Thy love.

O Thou most High, it is a good thing to give thanks unto Thy name, to show forth Thy praise in psalms and hymns and

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spiritual songs. Yet would we not forget that still more acceptable is it with Thee, what time we know anything of the deep shadow and mystery in which our life is wrapped, to commune with our own hearts and listen to Thy voice speaking in them and telling us to be still and know that Thou art God. We, as we may and ought, laud and praise Thy name for all that has made life gladsome to us, and to all we love, and to the whole race of man, of which the smallest part is that which has not tasted and seen that Thou art good. But for tribulations also would we bless Thee, O God. That which is often beyond our strength, Thou knowest, Father of mercies, God of all grace and consolation—is to be thankful to Thee and to praise Thy name for the things which are to us and to our kind not joyous but grievous, to feel no doubt of Thy

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goodness, no suspicion of Thy loving-kindness. We bless Thee that our hearts, witnessing for Thee and of Thee, assure us that this which is often so much beyond our strength is not what Thou dost require from us or expect from us; but that it is, that in all the troubles and sorrows of this life, as in all its hours of gladness and of mirth, our thoughts should be of Thee as one who like as a father pitieth His children, pitieth them that fear Thee, who is most mercifully as well as most justly to the pure pure, and to the froward froward. O Thou who art the beginning and the end of all things, life of all that lives, source of all true and blessed life for man, that which is known to Thee altogether of the issues of our life in its sadness and in its gladness, is but little intelligible to us. Here when above all we wish to see Thee, we see Thee not, and have

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to walk by faith, our faith being often made weak by the darkness which is all around us. May it be enough for us to feel here in this darkness of our lives that there is hope and comfort for us in that which all our earthly adversity and sorrow is able to do for mankind, in turning their thoughts to One over all, with whom evil cannot dwell, of whose government there shall be no end but universal order and peace and blessedness.

That these thoughts and feelings may be deepened in us and strengthened, we rest this day from work, and we come together to worship Thee and to praise Thy name. May the desire of our hearts be granted to us, so that we may feel that, even for the sad and weary and sorrowful of mankind, in Thy presence there is fulness of joy, at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

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XVIII.

O THOU who art the hearer and the answerer of prayer, to whom all flesh come in all their longings after things spiritual and divine, who art no respecter of persons in regard to any of Thy best gifts, but who givest unto all men liberally and upbraidest not, may it please Thee to give us with all Thy gifts and benefits a heart right with Thee to discern and to feel the value of Thy benefits and gifts. While we desire and hope and seek for blessings and enjoyments for ourselves and others, which are given but to the few, or which Thy providence or our weakness has placed beyond our reach, we are tempted to neglect and to undervalue sources of enjoyment and of blessedness which lie near to us and are open to us. We beseech Thee, Father of mercies, to save

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us from this blindness and folly. We desire so to be informed by Thy light and guided by Thy grace that we may not in invoking from Thee rare and wonderful mercies judge ourselves to be unworthy because unmindful of blessings and benefits Thou hast freely bestowed upon us. In asking from Thee, and looking to Thee for gifts of grace and piety, and with them experience of gladness and of peace, may we not be forgetful to avail ourselves from day to day of the opportunity to gladden our lives and increase their store of enjoyment, by ministering of our abundance to the need of others. May we not in looking and hoping for the blessedness of the just made perfect through their faith, forget to learn something by trial and experience of the blessedness of being kind, like Thee, to the just and to the unjust. It is good and

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profitable for us, God of our fathers, to take pleasure in and to learn wisdom from the study of Thy dealings with men of old, whose fathers, as they believed, walked closely with Thee and heard Thy voice; yet may we not so value this study, or engross ourselves in it, or superstitiously judge it, as to take no thought or pleasure in the present experience of our nation and other nations, to whom Thou art, as to Israel, God and Father and Shepherd and Guide. What time has brought to us, especially in the words of prophets and saints, of promises of good for all our race—great and precious promises going beyond this life into another and larger and better—we cannot fondly enough cherish or thankfully enough accept and welcome. Yet, O Lord, be pleased to grant that we may not fail, in dreaming of the fulfilment of those promises and of a distant

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heaven foreshadowed in them, to see and feel how much of heaven Thou hast given here and now to the seeing eye and to the understanding and loving heart—in the study of nature and of the life of man—in a mind cultivated to the enjoyment of art and literature—in homes in which gentleness and refinement reflect divine order and cause heavenly peace to dwell—in the observation of the coming of Thy kingdom in the progress of men and nations. We desire that Thou wouldst not suffer us in our blindness to neglect and disregard these purer and nearer sources of blessedness which Thy mercy has provided for us. May we rather thankfully accept them and use them for our advantage and to Thy glory.

Thou hast not, in these times of ours more than in ancient times, raised up and gifted

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men to be teachers of truth and wisdom—to give sight to the blind in regard to what is beautiful and good—to be discoverers and guides in the paths of knowledge and science—only that we should rebuke them in Thy name, or that we should by our indifference or contempt reject Thy gifts to us in them. May we not desire wealth, or pursue it, or seek it from Thee, as if it were to be compared with that which Thou hast given to these men to give to us. Above all, we pray that, having a grateful sense of how much Thou hast given us here in sources of blessedness which are near us and open to us and that are pure and lasting, we may desire to open them to the many to whom they are shut; so that their life, made dull and wretched by ignorance and superstition and fanaticism and sensuality, may be elevated and purified and ennobled; and thus

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in seeking to help Thy kingdom to come upon earth, may we share Thy blessedness and know Thy peace.

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XIX.

FATHER of all, whom to know is life everlasting, we give Thee thanks and praise that through Jesus Christ Thy name is known in all the earth. We bless Thee that there is felt among them that know Thy name the bond of a spiritual communion and fellowship. That Thou hast never left Thyself without a witness among men, that this voice has been heard speaking as from heaven in the hearts of men, and in the words of the wise and good and true of all lands and all times, we praise and bless Thee. But, above all, we desire to bless Thee that having spoken unto us by a Son, whose words are to us a message of reconciliation and of peace, many have heard and known Thy voice, and in their hearts and in their lives

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have turned to Thee to seek Thee as His Father and their Father. For as many as have thus been of that fellowship and communion in which we this day rejoice we praise and bless Thee. We thank Thee for all the work which they have done, and all the suffering which they have endured to establish Thy kingdom upon earth, to undo the work done by the evil and unthinking of our race, and to redress the evil done and the suffering caused by them. We bless Thee for whatever grace was given to them through the revelation of Thy mercy to mankind in Jesus Christ to live lives adorned with patience and nobleness and self-sacrifice. And we desire to be of one mind with them all, that our communion and fellowship may be as theirs was in this earthly life with Thee, the Father, through Jesus

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Christ. As belonging to this communion in which there is named the name of Jesus, we remember with thankfulness the departed who still live with us and for us in their works and words, our friends who have gone from us and are with Thee, and all who now live and are living as we desire to do not unto themselves but unto Thee. May grace, mercy, and peace be upon them all. By whatever name they are named, may the spirit of Jesus dwell in them by faith to make them Thy children and brethren one of another. May the blindness be removed which, while it is day, causes any of them to walk as in the night, considering not the things that make for peace. May strife and division which mar this communion give place in it to goodwill among men and peace on earth.

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Deny us not that grace which in this communion and fellowship has been given to many whose faith we desire to follow, in whose footsteps we desire to walk. Make us followers of all them who through faith and patience now inherit the promise. Whatever men have known and felt of the satisfaction and peace of being reconciled to Thee, and of doing Thy will here as it is done in heaven, we also may feel in this communion. To the same ministry we are called, Our Father! in which they have served whose names and deeds and lives we remember with reverence and love. In our daily work, and while we are beset by the cares and troubles and temptations of daily life, we also like them may be Thine, and know the peace of God which passeth all understanding. May we, Our Father! through Thy grace ministered to

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us in these our acts and hours of worship, and in all the discipline of this earthly life, be so inspired and guided that this our high calling in Christ Jesus may not be in vain for us, but that we too, while our day is, may work the work which is given us to do, and receive in doing it the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Our Father who art reconciling the world unto Thyself in Jesus Christ, suffer us not, because of the evil that is in the world through unrighteousness, to be unmindful of his example, or to be unthankful towards Thee for all that He did and suffered to bring the world to Thy light and Thy light to the world. Evermore in this earthly darkness may the light which is in Him be to us a light to lighten our darkness, within us and about us. May He not have lived in vain or died in vain

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for us, but grant that we may live after His example to the praise of Him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. And may the light which we share, and in which we desire to rejoice, be spread abroad over all the earth, that all who are of the night and of darkness, and whose lives are bound in misery and superstition through error and sin, may be delivered from the bondage in which they are held, and rejoice in Thy salvation.

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XX.

GREAT is the Lord and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. Our thoughts cannot reach unto Thee, Eternal! but are bounded by the shadows in which we dwell, of things that Thou hast made and that are a part of the mystery of Thy being and of ours. But with the desires of our hearts we may come to Thee, and through them in part know Thee even as we are known. O Thou that hidest Thyself from the search of those that seek Thee in the heavens above and in the earth beneath, but who art nigh unto every one of us, and art found by those who look for Thee in a pure and humble heart—may we have grace and wisdom in this our worship to commune with our own heart and be still—not to speak unto Thee as

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if Thou neededst that we should tell Thee what is in us, but to listen to Thy voice speaking to us in the reasonable soul with which Thou hast endowed us. All our knowledge that is by Thy favour to us the children of men continually increased, deepens only by its increase our consciousness of ignorance concerning Thee, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, by Whom and for Whom all things were and are. Thy gift to favoured generations of service which is their best possession and their glory, brings us not near to Thee, magnifies not to our minds the mystery of Thy being. Only, O Lord, our own hearts bear witness to us of Thee, and speak to us, as with Thy voice, of what Thou art. We know and believe that which they have to tell us of Thee—that One there is whom we see not, by whom all that is seen

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and we ourselves, have a being, and that all we desire or dream of greatness and goodness, He is. What we cannot know they teach us to hold as most certain of all that we think concerning Thee—that Thou, who art the Father of all, dost with fatherly pity and mercy behold and bless all that Thou hast made. We bless Thee that this revelation of Thyself is made within us, that so the darkness without us should not overwhelm us. For the certainty with which this revelation of Thyself in our hearts comes to us we praise Thee and bless Thee: it is our comfort in the time of trouble, our safety in the day of temptation. We bless Thee that not the evil of the world, nor that of which we are conscious in ourselves, can drive away from our hearts the haunting thought of Thee, as Thou art known and

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manifested in the intelligence of Thy rational creatures better than in the most glorious of Thy works. May it please Thee to grant that we may learn by experience of life, and of what its good and its evil are, to delight ourselves in Thee more and more, as Thou art ever present and ever gracious to thought and feeling that are turned to Thee. Our heart and our flesh crieth out for Thee.

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XXI.

God of all grace, light of all our seeing, giver of every gift of understanding and knowledge, we bless and praise Thee for these Scriptures of a favoured race in which we have received from Thee that wisdom which is able to make us wise unto salvation. We desire to render unto Thee thanks and praise for the fulfilments of the promise in which the fathers of that race believed—that in their father and his offspring all the nations of the earth should be blessed. As Thou hast given to communities gifts of men, great in intellect and greater still in heart, to be the founders in them of higher and better life, so hast Thou given to the world races to whom the world has owed salvation from some of its worst evils, and a marvellous increase of the highest

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good. We remember, as we read these Scriptures, which come to us from one such race of men, how much we owe to Thee in that which we owe to them. The errors and sins and follies of which they were guilty, and which they have recorded in these Scriptures for a testimony against themselves, have by Thy mercy long ago ceased to be known by their effects among children of men. They suffered for them, as was meet, and we have not now to fear the shame and sorrow which they involved. But we are the inheritors of that good which they achieved by their virtues, when other races were sunk in ignorance and sensual dulness, to which the thought of Thee and of righteousness as Thy sceptre was strange and alien. To that one race, what concerned the worship and service of the Eternal,

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whose name is holy, was more than the glory of war or gain of trade. Age after age, broken only by human frailty, the life that was lived by the race of Israel, Thy chosen, was life eternal and divine. By that life, thanks and praise be to Thee, Jehovah, God and Father of Jew and Gentile! the life of mankind has been enriched for all generations with thought, experience, knowledge of things spiritual, in the inheritance of which from one nation all nations are blessed in one. We thank Thee for examples of worth and nobleness which were the flower of that marvellous national existence in God and for God; and we bless Thee for the incomparable treasures of song and prophecy, of imperishable truth concerning Thee and concerning man's life in Thee which were its final outcome, and in which it fulfilled its course and destiny.

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We desire to profit by these Scriptures which record the virtues and the sins of one people so that we may, with the wisest of their wise and good and great, count righteousness and justice as the most sacred and most weighty of all interests to all peoples and all nations, and that we may honour worth more than wealth or might or rank. We thank Thee for the treasures of religious truth and wisdom which have been preserved to us in the recorded thought of peoples who to Jew and Christian have been heathen and strangers. Thou hast never left Thyself without a witness among men. It is Thy spirit which giveth us understanding. We bless Thee for truth, wherever it has been spoken or known or welcomed as Thy gift to the children of men. We thank Thee above all for Jesus Christ, by whom in regard to Thee, and our

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life in Thee, our darkness is turned to light. Be pleased to grant that as children of the light and of the day we may come unto the light that our deeds may be made known, and that what we do we may do to Thy glory.

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XXII.

UNTO Thee, O Lord, we lift up our eyes, and the desire of our hearts is to be conscious that where we are Thou art, and that in Thy presence there is fulness of joy. There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lift Thou on us the light of Thy countenance. In our lives, as in all besides of Thy boundless dominion, Thou createst darkness and commandest light to break forth; the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee. In our search after happiness and in our desire to avoid want and suffering, we have erred and strayed from Thy presence into darkness; and now we would return to Thee to seek the light of Thy face—believing that Thou hast never said unto any, Seek ye My face in vain—knowing that Thou hast never failed to be to souls that loved

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Thee help and stay and guide and exceeding great reward. With life Thou hast given us the desire of life, never to be satisfied, so that the good which we have enjoyed in it, and which we now have, seems poor and vain and empty compared with the better and greater which lives in our thoughts, and is not found by us in the world. May we not be hindered by all the failure of our lives to find good from striving after something better and higher. May we not be hindered by our errors, our griefs, and vexations in past days, from struggling now towards happiness and peace. And thus may we who have wandered from Thee return to Thee again. Thou Source of all life and blessedness, Beginning and End of all lives, open Thou our eyes that we may behold wondrous things in those things that are common in our common lives—in all the

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want which we feel, and all the sorrow we endure, and all the pain we fear—in the rich man's wealth and the poor man's toil, and the wise man's knowledge—in the gladness of youth, in the sweetness of love and friendship—in the scorn of life of a few men, and the dissatisfaction with life of all men. We are of little faith, O Lord Most High! and that which the wise and good have written for our learning—that which many prophets and righteous men have testified to us concerning righteousness and goodness as man's true life and Thy will, comes often to us as a sealed book, and concerning it we doubt and question and cannot be satisfied. But in these common things in common lives, Thou, living God! art revealing to us the Invisible and Eternal Spirit, which no man hath seen or can see; so that our spirit may have fellowship with

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Thee, and know that Thou art, and that Thou art a rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee. May we look into this revelation of Thyself, and inquire diligently into it. May we be instructed by it how to live. May we learn from it to redeem the time, counting the time past of our life sufficient to have wrought the will of the flesh, and thinking that now it is high time to awake out of sleep. Thou who art better and kinder than any who have loved us and cared for us upon earth, Thou who hast loved us and cared for each of thy children by making all the love and all the life of all our kind to contribute to the good of each—grant of Thy great mercy that we learn to love Thee by learning from our lives what Thou art and what is Thy will concerning us—by taking heed to that which we are taught in our hearts by failure and success, by want and

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abundance, by joy and sorrow, by sin and suffering. Thou who art good, and who turnest evil to good, hast shown us what is good in giving us good and the shadow of evil with it. In this thou hast given to thy chosen ones opportunities to live a heavenly life and to enjoy blessedness upon earth; as He who was rich, for our sakes became poor, and yet had all things. May we be thus followers of all those who, through faith and patience and enlightenment in things divine and eternal, have inherited here in this life the promises of these things. Grant us this grace, for Jesus' sake.

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XXIII.

KING ETERNAL, whose glory it is to be loved of all thy creatures made capable of knowing Thee; who art great in goodness and greatly to be praised; we come to Thee with confidence as children to a father, believing that Thou art more willing to give, than we to ask, the things that are needful for us. How shall we come before the Lord? With what sacrifice shall we bow ourselves before Him? We will bring unto Thee, Most High, as our hearts teach us, and as the best and choicest of Thy saints and servants have taught us, the desire that Thou wouldst have compassion upon us and upon all men—that Thou wouldst make Thy way known in the earth, and Thy saving health among all nations. Hast Thou not said by the mouth of the

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Holy and Blessed One, in whose name we are called, Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you? May we, our Father who art in heaven, and who dwellest also upon earth! with wonder and adoration acknowledge Thee in Thy works, and see and confess that Thy greatness is unsearchable. Deepen by all our knowledge the mystery of life and being for us, that in the shadow of this mystery the light of Thy glory may shine in upon us more and more, and that ever as day and night in our fleeting lives revolve, and we are brought nearer to the end of our existence here below, we may more and more truly and heartily, with all Thy works, praise Thee. But by what Thou dost reveal to our hearts of Thy goodness we are taught that what the Lord doth require of us as worship and sacrifice and praise and

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blessing is, above all, that we should trust in Him as good, and without wrath and doubting lift up our empty hands to Him that they may be filled.

We call to mind what we have known and felt and heard of the sorrow and suffering and weariness and want of mankind. Thy kingdom come, as in heaven, so also upon earth. We pray for the sick that they may be healed through suffering; for the sorrowful that they may be purified through sorrow; for the wretched and miserable and outcast, that their wrongs may be righted and their misery relieved; for all who are wounded in their affections and broken in their hearts, that as their day is so may their strength be; for all who are in this earthly darkness bewildered by the shows of things and led astray into folly and vice and sin, that by the mercy of

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the Highest they may be led into the way of righteousness and peace. May our nation and all the nations upon earth learn the wisdom to be friendly, to love righteousness, to prefer industry and peace to war and bloodshed. Grant to our nation and to all nations, in kings and princes and rulers, the rule of the wise and good and great. Bless our Sovereign the Queen, in making her a blessing in her wide empire to many nations and peoples and tongues, by giving to her Government the glory of promoting among them enlightenment and industry and peace.

Our Father, who art in heaven, whose glory it is to give always more and better than we can ask or think! in all our weakness in this life minister to us courage and hope; in all temptation give us grace to suffer and be strong; in all sorrow may we be

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patient and hope to the end for the grace of the Highest yet to be revealed to us and all men. May we, in all experience of the vanity of earthly things, have bread to eat which the world knoweth not of in the assurance that the purpose of the Lord from everlasting to everlasting is our salvation from sin and sorrow. Grant us this grace, for Jesus' sake.

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XXIV.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

THE Lord is merciful and gracious.

O Thou who art the Beginning and the End of all lives, in whom the living live and the dead sleep, grant that we in the presence of death may feel that our true life is in Thee. Thou who hast made us as we are made, to love life and to grieve and suffer in the presence of death, be near to us when we call upon Thy name, feeling in that presence we have no help save in Thee alone. It is our comfort and consolation in turning our hearts to Thee, when they are made heavy by sorrow, that Thou art greater than our hearts and knowest all things, that our grief when it is too great to be uttered, and

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our need when it is more and deeper than we know or can express, is what Thou knowest altogether. If, Lord, it seems to us when we need Thee most, and Thy help is most to be desired for our relief, that Thou art farthest away from us and we are most left to ourselves; if the burden of life has thus, through our weakness, to be borne by us often without that help which it is Thine to give, do Thou, most merciful, have compassion upon us, be near to us to keep us even when we have not strength to call upon Thy name.

It is Thy hand, Father Almighty, which has fashioned the ties that bind us one to another in love and friendship, and when these ties are broken by death, that which we have to suffer is known to Thee and Thee alone. May we come to Thee as children unto a father, asking from Thee

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for a childlike confidence to make our requests known unto Thee, remembering that like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. We desire to feel though we cannot know that Thy will in trouble and affliction, even the greatest of all, is not to punish us but to bless us, that alike in all that we are born to suffer in our affections and in all the happiness and enjoyment that we derive from them, the pity and goodness of the Highest are manifested and expressed. When we shrink, as we do now, from the painful part of the discipline of this life, when our grief is heavier than we can bear, when all that is best and sweetest in the gift of life is withdrawn from it by Him who gave it, when our strength is proved to us to be weakness, in our weakness be Thy strength perfected, and may we lean

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upon it and feel that Thou art a very present help in trouble. We desire in our darkest hours to trust Thee, and against doubts and fears that test us and perplex us, to cling to the belief that all is for the best, not meant to crush us or to extinguish our hopes and desires for those we love and for ourselves, but to work out for them and for us good beyond our belief and hope.

When our faith is weak and heart and flesh faint and fail, good Lord, have mercy upon us; in Thy mercy remember us, inclining us to remember Thy mercy; in Thy pity visit us, that in the thought of Thy pity we may be saved from despair of ourselves. Most merciful Father, seen of no creature Thou hast made, but near to all that live and in all that lives, we who see Thee not, and only dimly reason of Thy existence and Thy ways, are made subject to doubt

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and fear in being made subject to death and the sorrow which is by death. Thou knowest how hard it is for us to assure ourselves, when those we love better than life are taken from us, that we are not forgotten or disowned by Him that made us, that our loss is not all loss, and our suffering and anguish not all vain and fruitless. Our affections cling to that which is earthly and familiar to us, so that it is hard for us to think and feel that our beloved dead, whose faces we shall no more behold, are still with Thee, and that for Thee and in Thy presence and Thy dominion, death hath no more dominion over them.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and when our faith is thus weak and faltering increase our faith. Where the witness of Thyself which Thou hast given to men is most

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precious and most needful, may we seek it and find it not only in the experience of Thy saints and servants in past ages, but in our own hearts fashioned by Thee, and in our own lives ordered by Thee. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. Even as we are moved by pity for the weak and downcast and sorrowful, so our hearts assure us it must be that He who is the highest of all must be the best of all, pitiful and compassionate beyond our belief and hope to all that lives and breathes. Grant, our Father, that we may in all trouble that is darkest and deepest find in this revelation of Thyself within us, Thy consolation ministered to us, and Thy light lightening our darkness.

Help of all the sorrowful, Comforter of all that mourn, we remember in Thy pre-

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sence those whose share in the sorrow which we feel this day is heaviest and sorest. Comfort by the sympathy of friends, and much more by Thy grace—comfort and support one whose heart is made sorrowful with a great sorrow for the loss of a kind and faithful husband. We commend to Thy care children too young to know the calamity that has befallen them, beseeching Thee to be their Father and Friend and Saviour, and to raise up for them friends of their youth and of their later years, who, in remembrance of the dead, will be to them guides and helpers. We remember in Thy presence all the sorrow of the present moment and the present occasion. We remember the sorrow of friends who have lost one near and dear to them, most worthy of their love — friends who regret the

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loss of one esteemed by them and loved for his manliness, generosity, and truth—friends and acquaintances who must miss henceforth from the scenes of busy life one whose part in them was always honourable and dutiful. We remember, too, the sorrow of friends associated with him in public religious duty and observance. Consecrate the sorrow for all of us who have part in it, and grant that even what is darkest and most mysterious in it, may be not without profit in showing us and opening for us the path of life. May we in the wreck and ruin, always come or coming, of that which is seen and temporal, learn not only to bear what cannot be avoided of grief with patience, but to set our affections more and more upon that which is unseen and eternal. Grant that, seeing how this earthly life of ours in all that is outward of it, is liable to

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change and dissolution, we may be moved by Thy grace to live not unto ourselves, or only with a view to the life that now is, but unto Thee; and that Thy kingdom may come, as in heaven so also upon earth. Teach us to number our days that we may thus apply our hearts unto wisdom.

We remember in Thy presence, now and here, all the children of sorrow—above all, those whose sorrow like ours this day is for the dead, concerning whom their souls refuse to be comforted. In the darkness and mystery in which their lives are shrouded by this sorrow, may light arise for them and shine upon them from the sympathy of their kind, much more from what the Spirit which Thou hast given to man witnesses to itself of One, the Beginning and the End of all things, the First and the Last, whose tender mercies are

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over all His works, who knoweth our frame, who remembereth that we are dust.

As in our experience of the world, the mystery and the darkness belonging to it are greatest and deepest in the presence of death, by which useful and upright lives are cut short and their aspirations and purposes left unfulfilled—as the yearnings and affections that go out from us towards such lives are the strongest and deepest of our nature—so our hearts above all things refuse to think that their end is only to be remembered by us as having come to nought.

In this may the children of sorrow find comfort for themselves, as in a revelation through human hearts of the pity and loving-kindness of the Highest.

To one in whose sorrow we are made sorrowful there has come experience of

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calamity the greatest and sorest that human heart can feel.

We who mourn for a friend taken from us in the vigour of his gifted manhood, and for a useful and honourable life untimely ended, remember in Thy presence her unutterable grief, and to Thy fatherly mercy and compassion we commend her in her desolation and misery for protection and for consolation, of which Thou alone hast that to bestow which is needful for her.

Though life may not ever be again for her what it has been, yet may the experience which has been that of Thy children in all time, in all earthly tribulation and calamity, be shared by her also, by submission to Thy will being found to be the best of this life, and the assurance and foretaste of another and a better.

May she be led by her experience of life,

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on which the shadow of death has fallen, only more firmly and truly than ever to believe and trust that Thou who canst do all things wilt not suffer anything evil in the experience of any of Thy creatures to have any end but to be turned to good.

With this comfort, comfort her heart and the hearts of those who share with her a bereavement so heavy to be borne. With this comfort, comfort their hearts in Jesus Christ.

May He be to them indeed the Resurrection and the Life. From the fleeting and often painful life of sense may they with Him rise to newness of life, in the thought of Thy will concerning them and all mankind being that they should be saved from sin and sorrow.

May the fatherly pity of the Highest, revealed by Jesus Christ, comfort them and touch their hearts with a childlike faith and

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hope, so that as the Perfect One who knew no sin and much sorrow here upon earth was comforted of His Father in all tribulation, so they also may be strengthened and supported to bear calamity with resignation and with hope.

From the example of a life in the courage and manliness of which we have rejoiced, and for the end of which we now sorrow, may we learn to work while it is called to-day. We thank Thee and praise Thee for every useful and noble life which has been lived upon the earth, and specially for this one, the end of which is for us, and for many, an unexpected and irreparable loss. Teach us to number our days, as in such lives the days have been numbered by the best and worthiest of our race, that we may apply our hearts as they did unto wisdom, and may help as they have helped to

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advance the coming of Thy Kingdom. Thy Kingdom come, O Lord, as in heaven so also upon earth, that living in Thee and for Thee we and all men may be delivered from the power of sin and death, and know by all our experience, both of joy and sorrow, that in Thy favour there is life, that Thy loving-kindness is better than life. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee. In sickness and the hour of death may we have better than earthly support on which to lean; in life and death may we be Thine and rest our souls on Thee. Be Thou our Shepherd and we shall not want, our succour and we shall not fail, our life and we shall not die. No man liveth unto himself—no man dieth unto himself. Whether we live may we live unto the Lord—whether we die may we die unto the Lord. AMEN.

THE END.

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